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McInteer Sermon Outlines - Kings, 2

Jim Bill McInteer

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Only One Other Shared This

2 Kings 2

I. And It Came To Pass -

A. These words usher in a magnificent event--like unto only one other.

1. Elijah is ranked with Enoch in not seeing death.
2. Elijah and Elisha - the second Moses and Joshua?
3. Elijah, the older of the two, knew the court that Elisha, a prosperous farmer, did not know.
4. Elisha poured water over Elijah's hands.

B. When the Lord would take Elijah.

1. Solemn time in a man's life when his earthly journey is to end.
2. Solemn time too for those left behind.
3. God has an appointed time for man on this earth.
4. When this time is up, man must go.
5. "No accidental deaths or premature grave."
6. "Thou takest away his breath."
7. For this home we need to prepare.
8. Note Elijah's resignation - no murmur or unwillingness.

Ps 104:29

9. God knows when we have accomplished our earthly task.
10. The contemplation about his end was appropriate.
11. It was habitual of him to be compliant.

C. Note: "into Heaven."

1. Earth's work is over - heaven's to begin.
2. No one taken til his work is done.
3. Faith shows no fear.
4. There is a ripening for either heaven or hell.

D. Whirlwind.

1. Sometimes by angels, still small voices, whirlwinds.
2. Storm, atmospheric disturbance.
3. Word only here.

II. We'll see words repeated three times.

A. "Tarry here" as they leave Gilgal.

1. Israel came here first from Egypt.
2. Crossed Jordan on dry land.
3. Gilgal - great memorial marking God's deliverance of His people.
4. Go to Bethel.
 - a) Jacob's vision and ladder.
 - b) House of God.

5. Why leave Elisha?
- a) Modest about event to come?
 - b) Meditate alone about this departure.
 - c) Prepare mind for solemn event
 - d) "The Lord hath sent me."
 - e) Time of shifting and searching
 - f) Are others prepared for this?
I'm to go and ask no question.
 - g) Could a more shallow spirit understand?
 - h) When we face death are we not moved to be occupied with ourselves?
 - i) Is it too much for Elisha?
 - j) Would presence of another shatter the calm self-possession?
 - k) Would he create excitement, perturbation?
 - l) God keeps in perfect place mind stayed on him.
 - m) Elijah has an eye to the future?

- B. Elisha objected - as the Lord liveth.
1. Three times resisted being gotten rid of.
 2. Was the fidelity of Elisha tested?
 3. Used earnest asservation.
 4. Shows strong attachment and perhaps some curiosity.

5. Absolute unchangeableness.
6. He's being called to post of highest honor - is Elisha worthy of the moment?
7. Prophet is literally to obey - no more, no less.
8. No divided allegiance seen.
9. Does it test the quality of his obedience?
10. Come what may--I'll cling to you.
11. Put his hand to the plow and will not turn back.
12. Can't bear the thought of losing one moment with him.
13. Does he want to see the working of God?
14. Wants to see the completion of a great work.
15. Perseverance is rewarded.

C. Visit of the sons of the prophets.

1. Last time they would see Elijah.
2. Refreshing to know prophets' works will continue.
3. Wants germ of hope for future.
4. Word of God must be studied and word understood.
5. Why serve the Lord that costs neither labor, study, sacrifice?

6. Beaten oil required for temple lamp.
 7. No inconsistency in study and preparation - learning does not distract from grace.
- D. Knowest thou - Master taken.
1. Came to Elisha - did not address Master himself.
 2. Like the reverence shown.
 3. Surely Elisha had prophetic instincts too.
 4. Hold your peace.
 - a) Hush - don't chatter about that which is too sacred.
 - b) Do you younger folk think you are wiser than anyone else?
- E. Tarry - go to Jericho.
1. Rough terrain to cross.
 2. Jericho "road" and "walls."
 3. Seeing historic places as he goes east.
- F. Another visit by sons of prophets.
1. Twenty miles apart.
 2. Hold peace - time to speak and a time to be silent.
- G. Went to Jordan River.
1. Fifty men, sons of prophets, stood to view afar.
 - a) Curious?
 - b) Why afar - reverence?

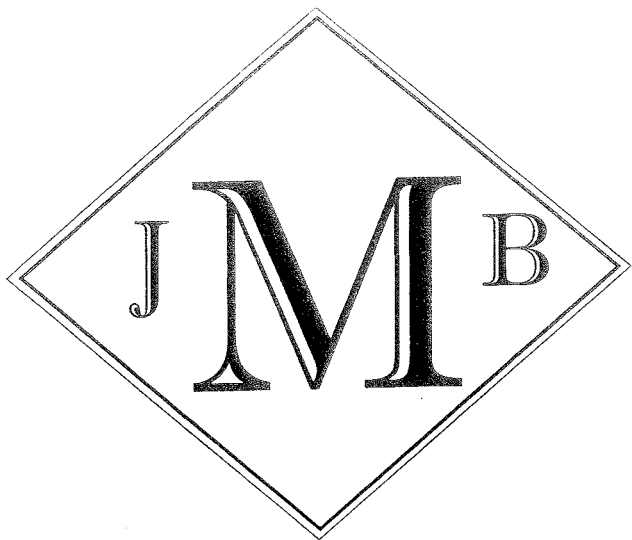
2. Two stood by Jordan.
 - a) Now through the open country.
 - b) Does the wandering seem endless?
 - c) Yet nothing daunts the follower.
 - d) All the world seems remote to these two prophets.
 - e) Is the Jordan a barrier?
 - f) Now nearer home - as we like to end earthly journey where it started.
3. Wrapped mantle.
 - a) Sheepskin cape.
 - b) Rolled it to resemble staff.
4. Smote the waters.
 - a) Strong act of faith - age and trial have not diminished it.
 - b) Close his pilgrimage with daring act of faith.
 - c) Stake all on one act.
 - d) No uncertain or trembling hand, no weak faith.
 - e) Waters divided.

H. What shall I do for thee?

1. Another mark of faith that I can get for you what you ask for.
2. Weaker one now to resolve something.

ONLY ONE OTHER SHARED THIS

Pennington Bend (Young Preachers) 7/20/03
Neely's Bend - 7/27/03



OPEN DITCHES & HIDDEN LESSONS

II Kings 3

- I. We deal with a very interesting chapter in the story of Israel and Judah's kings.
 - A. This lesson has some open but unusual dug ditches or pits.
 - B. Plus some very valuable lessons in God's economy.
 - C. Let's see the events as men dig ditches and also ourselves as we dig for truth.
 - D. Our study is II Kings 3.

- II. Events Unfold.
 - A. Jehoram, son of Ahab is on Israel's throne.
 - B. Jehoshaphat is on Judah's.
 - C. Our first hidden lesson.
 1. Jehoram was like his daddy.
 2. "Wrought evil in the sight of the Lord."
 3. Credit him with putting away the image of Baal.
 4. Charge him with cleaving to the sins of Jeroboam "which made Israel to sin." Still had calves at Dan and Bethel.
 5. Lesson #1 -- our parents cast a long shadow - if they drink, gamle, children will.

III. Mesha, King of Moab rebelled.

A. Suddenly we are into the revolt.

1. Moab has been treated oppressively.
2. Their heavy tribute a burden.
3. Jehoram is going to need Jehoshaphat and Edom.
4. A blow can be delivered that will keep Moab in check for a long time, 50 years.

B. Mesha's Revolt.

1. Called sheep master.
2. Original word - naked.
3. 100,000 lambs (meant fatted for food).
4. 100,000 rams with the wool.
5. Moab a hilly country suited for pasture.
6. Took advantage of Ahab's death.

C. Lesson #2 -- There exists proper times for our action--people are attentive when kids graduate, leave, folk die, or we move

IV. Jehoram springs into action.

A. Musters all Israel--but note he did not go to God with his problem at first.

1. He seeks no word of guidance from God.
2. When God's guidance is not sought how can we ask God's guidance?

3. He will remember later about God's overruling providence--even put blame on God.
 4. Give him credit for promptness - "went the same time."
 5. Lesson #3 -- go to God first and still go quickly to your problem.
- B. He told his problem to Jehoshaphat and got a quick answer.
1. Jehoshaphat too will be late in asking God's guidance -- Tom Brokaw "See you tomorrow" attitude.
 2. Here's a lesson men are slow to learn - God first.
- C. They then discuss the route of attack-- which way shall we go? (v.8)
1. Northern or southern?
 2. Chose southern around Dead Sea to valley of Moab.
 - a) Could gain Edom.
 - b) Closer for Judah.
 - c) Maybe surprise Moab.
 - d) Not more than 100 miles-- usually made 15 miles a day in marching.
 3. Through Edom.
 - a) Had a vassal king dependent.
 - b) Route longer, but thought easier.

4. Lesson #4 -- what is to be gained by entanglement with evil?
 - a) Succeeding generations felt sin of Jeroboam.
 - b) Man entails evil on his posterity.
 - c) Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown.
 - d) Entanglement with the wicked leads to many snares.

Phil.4:6 "In everything by prayer.."

5. Look what happened--seven days journey and no water for cattle.
 - a) Had they expected to find such now in peril.
 - b) Jehoram despairs--God has delivered three kings to Moab (v.10).
 - c) He sees no way out.
 - d) Cattle--beasts that carried baggage.
6. Jehoram the embodiment of unfaith is blind, hopeless, helpless.
7. Easy for him to forget God.
8. "God suffers his people by their own improvidence to bring themselves into distress that the wisdom, power, and goodness of his providence may be glorified in their relief."

9. If they had inquired of the Lord at the beginning, would not have had this trouble.
10. He assumes without warrant that the expedition was one God sanctioned and now complains it is about to fail utterly.
11. Men are sometimes amiss and neglect duty until necessity and affliction drives them to it.

Ezek.14:3

D. Jehoshaphat asks for a prophet of the Lord and gets Elisha.

1. He realizes God has not called them together--they did it on their own.
2. Time for faith nor despair.
3. Ought earlier to have made inquiry of the Lord.
4. "Neglective duty does not justify persistence in neglect."
5. Elisha will know the mind of God.
6. He pours water on Elijah's hands--close attendant.
7. Jehoshaphat had prepared his heart to seek the Lord (II Chron.19:3).
8. Lesson #5 -- it is best to be associated with those that love the Lord.

E. Elisha is called.

1. Three kings go down to him.
 - a) Blessing to be favored with the society of those who have power with God and can prevail.
 - b) He's the true prophet and can tell the will of God.
 - c) They are ready to accept him and it's an honor that kings bow down to him.
 - d) Do not wait to send for him-- they go down.
 - e) They are humbled by their misfortune.
2. He asks Israel what have I to do with thee?
 - a) Knew Jehoram's wickedness.
 - b) Point beyond which resources cannot be strained.
3. Get your mother and father's prophets.
4. Jehoram insists God's giving three kings to Moab.
5. Were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat I would not look toward nor see thee.
 - a) Nothing gained by yoked with unbelievers.
 - b) Good to be with those who have God's favor.
 - c) Character, not rank, that God regards.

Lesson #6 -- be careful of your associates.

F. Elisha calls for a mistral.

1. Same as harpest.
2. Those who desire communion with God must keep spirit quiet and serene.
3. Mind needs to be calm and passions all in harmony under the direction of reason.
4. Music has religious usages--helps our minds to worship God.
5. Before the cross Jesus sang a hymn.
6. Lesson #7 -- Music plays a vital part.
7. Never underestimate power of music, gives wings to the soul, reveals harmony.

G. Make the valley full of ditches.

1. Wonder what they thought?
 - a) Better to move to another place than dig in dry desert.
 - b) Saw no reason for water so we get discouraged.
 - c) How will a dry ditch deliver us?
2. But they dug!
 - a) What God commands we must do.
 - b) He does not have to give reason.
 - c) Their digging made them partners with the Lord.
 - d) Obedient faith wins.

- e) Not by might, nor by power,
but by my spirit saith the
Lord.
- f) Faith acts on word of promise.
- 3. Won't see wind nor rain, but
valley full of water.

Eph. 3:20 He is able to do exed...

- a) Wind precursor to rain.
- b) With God a light thing.
- c) Storm some distance away --
three days march (Josephus)
outlet to dry wadies.
- d) Supply miraculous.
- 4. Smite every city, fell every good
tree, mar every good field with
stones.
- 5. At time of morning sacrifice filled
with water.
- 6. Lesson #8 -- always obey God.

H. Moabite mistake.

- 1. Arm every able man, stood at
border.
- 2. Rose early, sun on water red as
blood.
- 3. Kings have killed each other.
- 4. Lesson #9 -- brethren do fight.
- 5. Now Moab to the spoil.
 - a) Went too hastily.
 - b) Frist impression wrong.
 - c) The supposition not impossible
confederates do fall out.

6. Felt nothing to do but plunder enemy in their hands.
7. Israel rose up and smote them.
 - a) Beat down cities.
 - b) Stones in every good field.
See power of little things. Each man his stone and covered the fields. Power of cooperation.
 - c) Stopped wells.
 - d) Cut trees.
 - e) Took every city but one and slingers surrounded it.
8. Moab's final threat.
 - a) 700 men against Edom failed.
 - b) Sacrificed eldest son on wall, he was to have reigned.
(Life is cheap without Christ).
 - c) Israel horrified and retreated, but Moab in check for 50 years.

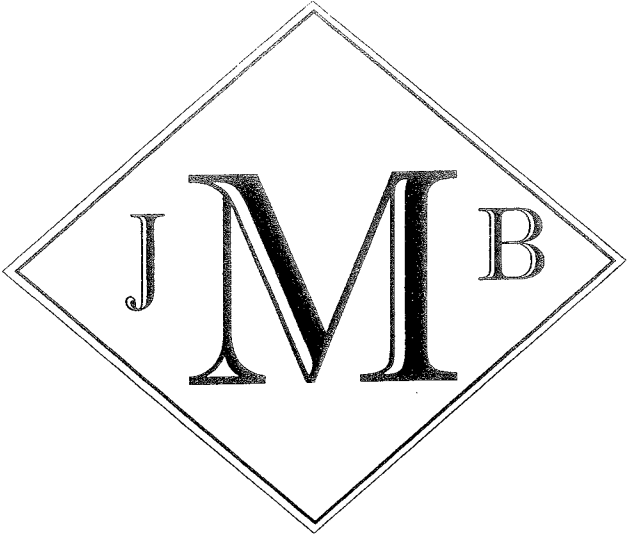
Montgomery Bell State Park - 10/7/01

Adairville, KY (BC) - 10/14/01

Kingwood Hgts. & 4th Ave. BC - 10/16/01

East Main BC - 11/7/01

Riverwood BC - 12/5/01



THAT "GREAT" WOMAN

2 Kings 4

- I. Go with me to Plain of Jezreel.
 - A. Richest tract in Israel.
 1. Often a battlefield.
 2. Midway between two points:
Carmel and Tabor.
 3. Exclusively agricultural.
 4. Cecil "Business that does not allow for retirement and meditation cannot be proper for a Christian."
 5. Here find the little village of Shunem.
 6. Home of "Great" lady.
 - B. Territory covered by Elisha.
 1. Frequent visits did not go unnoticed.
 2. A lady and husband "constrained him to eat bread."
 - a) Entertain angels unaware.
 - b) Lydia constrained Paul.
 3. No undue attraction to Elisha.
 - a) Society can be dangerous and destroy us.
 - b) Deny Master to count the wealthy.
 - c) Do we covet the rich and forsake the poor with our invitations.
 - d) Elisha passed by and ate bread.

e) Not impressed with her greatness.

I Sam. 25 Nabal and Abigail, Carmel, 3,000 sheep.

f) She insisted Elisha stop by for a meal--famous man.

g) Friendship blossomed to bigger things.

C. Holy man - Let's make a little chamber.

1. Build on top, outside stairs, come and go without family contact, private.
2. His comfort and convenience, not her gratification.
3. She's honored as she served God's servant.

D. Sparsely furnished.

1. Bed, table, stool, lamp--ever ready.
2. Second story for stopovers.
3. Baird - missionary quarters.

E. Prophet needed to reward her.

1. Preachers are careless about this.
2. Simple thanks extended.
3. Promptly after first night wanted to say thank you.
4. What can we do? (Jim Cone and pill boxes).

5. Elisha had influence--King or captain.
 - a) Thing she needs most from a mightier sovereign.
 - b) Modestly stood before them.
 - c) Two men--Gehazi there too.
6. Noble independence - "I dwell among my own people" - v.13.
 - a) Not haughty.
 - b) Not grasping.
 - c) Depends on God - "My God Reigns."

F. Surely there is something!!

1. Gehazi - "She had no child, husband old."
 - a) King and captain most important folk, but she has a greater need.
 - b) She needs more than kinfolk.
 - c) Without child - without heir.
 - d) Something materials can't satisfy.
 - e) Childlessness a curse--not today!
2. She stood at the door when called.
3. Promised a child within a year.
4. Father joy of a son.
5. Barrenness is scorn.

I Sam. 1:6-7

6. Promise kept.

II. Happy days with son.

A. Harvest time.

1. Happy time.
2. Thanksgiving for a crop.
3. Widow and children go forth to glean.
4. Father and son together.
5. Farmers, sons like to watch sowing and reap.
6. Ron Ferguson baptized as child--fungus in ear until grown.
7. Only son a favorite.

B. My head, my head.

1. Incautiously child removed head covering--sunstroke.
2. Daddy failed to catch emergency.
3. Carried home by servant--did not stop work.
4. We want mother when sick.
5. On her knees til noon--died.
 - a) Lay the fevered child.
 - b) Suppose lips dry, eyes gazed?
6. Suppose she prayed--God hear?
7. Held only child.

C. Immediate plan of action--acted quickly.

1. Carried child to prophet's room.
2. Partly belonged to him.
3. Shut the door--hide death.
4. Serene in trial--firm in action.

5. Called to husband--send young man--ass--run to man of God and return.
 6. Husband reacted.
 - a) Why go today? Strange request.
 - b) Not new moon or Sabbath.
 7. It shall be well--lit. peace.
 - a) Didn't tell him details.
 - b) Faith "shall be well."
 - c) Husbands postpone--not wife.
 - d) Didn't press for explanation.
 - e) Jack Sinclair hid Sue's presents in the oven - she never used it.
 8. Saddled ass--drive--slack not.
 - a) Nothing to stop them, however weary, worn until at prophet's feet.
 - b) Sixteen miles--felt no weakness never stopped, made it.
 - c) Lit. Run!
- D. Elisha saw the Shunamites--discern at a distance.
- E. Gehazi sent to meet her - well?
Answer: It is well--positive.
- F. She came to Elisha.
 1. Evasive with Gehazi.
 2. We want to know all about the family.

3. Saved her words only for Elisha.
4. Her silence her strength.
5. Fell at his feet.
6. Gehazi tried to push her away.
7. Let her alone.
 - a) Beneath the crust of the ice there is a flowing river.
 - b) God's hidden something.
8. Rapid-fire questions.
 - a) Blame Elisha
 - b) We tend to do this.
9. Gehazi sent.
 - a) Gird up loins--go in haste.
 - b) Take staff.
 - c) Speak to no one--time's precious.
 - d) Staff on face of child.
10. All self put aside for great errands of life.
11. Nothing compares to serving God.
12. Mother refused to leave without Elisha (2 Kings 2:2-6).
 - a) Not Gehazi, staff, only prophet
 - b) Same oath Elisha to Elijah.
 - c) Will not go lest thou go with me.
 - d) Staff won't do it.
13. Elisha followed her home.

III. The Homecoming.

- A. Neither voice nor hearing.
- B. The child is not awakened.
- C. Child dead and on Elisha's bed.
- D. Shut door on the second floor and prayed.
- E. Lay upon child.
 1. Mouth to mouth.
 2. Eyes to eyes.
 3. Hands to hands.
 4. Stretched himself.
 5. Flesh waxed warm.
- F. Walked to and fro.
- G. Return to stretch position.
- H. Child sneezed seven times.
- I. Opened his eyes.
- J. Call the mother.
 1. Take up thy son.
 2. Took Elisha's fee--second time.
 3. Prostrate--highest gesture of respect.
 4. Took up her son and went out.

Heb. 11:35 Women received their dead raised to life again.

IV. Thank God for believing mothers! What type mom are you?

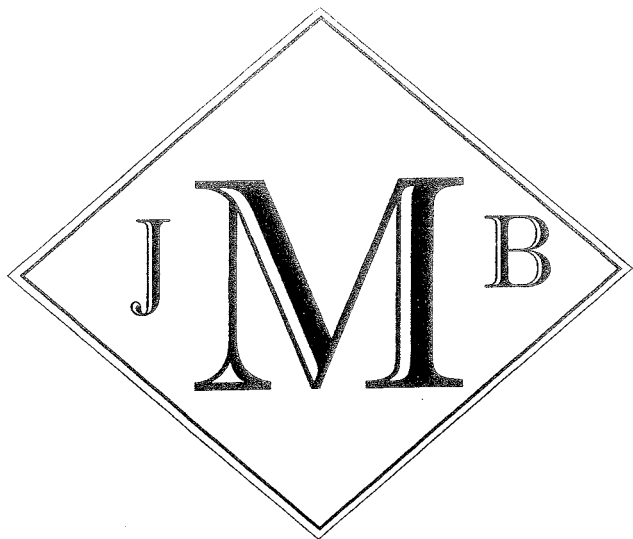
Fisinger and Kenny C/C - BC - 5/8/05

Gentle and respectful towards her husband, as when she afterwards sought his permission to use one of the beasts of burden for her lonely ride to the prophet; loving her own with all the ardour of a genuine and generous nature; frank, free, independent in mind--we had almost said lofty, if that term were not so often confounded with pride--yet so kind, tender-hearted with such true womanly instinct, and, withal, so thoroughly and simply pious, this strong-hearted, soft-hearted woman would have deserved the title of "great" had she been the veriest beggar in the streets of Shunem.

--Alfred Edersheim

Practical Truths from Elisha - pg. 93-94

2 Kings 4:8-25



THE DAY THE OIL STOPPED FLOWING

2 Kings 4:1-6

- I. It was a day of earnest need.
 - A. A widow cried.
 1. She loved her husband & sons.
 2. Her cry to Elisha a compliment as she gave him an opportunity to help.
 3. Glad to see it's no Monastic order.
 4. Marriage is consistent c all professions.
 - V. 1 "Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou know
 - V. 1 "Thou knowest that thy servant did fear the Lord
 5. Death came to a good man who was in debt.
 - a.) Left a burden on his family - do we by neglect, extravagance, ignorance, or calamity?
 - b.) We all remember preachers who never paid debt
 - c.) Our fortunes change rapidly.
 - d.) Does the church make any provisions for preachers' widows?
 6. Did fear the Lord.
 - a.) One of 7,000 not bowing to Baal.
 - b.) Beyond doubt, her husband was a good man.
 - c.) We need reason to offer as our claim to receive assistance.
 - B. Come the Creditors.
 1. Don't know why he was in debt.
 2. Creditor had rights.
 3. Wise to owe only love.
 4. Both sons to be sold.
- Exo. 21:2 "If thou buy a Heb. servant, six years he s
Neh. 5:5 "We bring into bondage our sons and our d

5. We borrow, pledge sons as security (we do a bit of same today c burdens on families).

6. Jews took away severity & limitlessness - free in Jubilee.

Lev. 25:40-46 (tells this).

7. Avarice & cruelty - takes both sons. No pity.

II. Came an Immediate Response.

A. What shall I do for thee (V. 2).

1. Elisha readily received the complaint.

2. Generation of the righteous may rightfully expect God's folk to help.

3. He acknowledged at once the call on him to do something.

B. 2nd Qt. "What hast thou in the house?"

1. Made her go as far as possible.

2. No reckless almsgiving.

3. All part of his effect & prompt response.

II. The Answer & the Plan.

"Thy handmaid hath not anything...save a pot of oil

A. Pot of oil.

1. All she had was an oil flask.

2. Had oil enuf for anointing.

3. Cruet of oil, small pot.

4. This word used only here.

5. Lessons:

a.) Make the best of what you've got.

b.) Do your part.

c.) How many loaves Jn. 6:9.

How many fish caught Jn. 21.

How much oil I Kings 17:12.

B. "Go borrow empty vessels abroad, not a few"
(V. 3).

1. Go out of doors (abroad) to neighbors.
2. Empty vessels - see our own helplessness.
3. Size & shape didn't matter.
4. Not a few.
 - a.) Do not scant or stint.
 - b.) Expect big things of God.

Ps. 81:10 "I am the Lord thy God, which brought the

C. Shut Door c Sons.

1. Holy things are not for public gaze.
2. Apart from Elisha - thus the work of God, not man.
3. Avoid outside disturbance.

D. Pour & Set aside.

1. She poured continually. She did **not** leave her pouring.
2. Oil multiplied in pouring tho not told how.
3. She had to do the pouring - part of the plan.
4. She firmly believed & obeyed.
5. No limit to divine power but always rule of God to require man to do what he can.
6. Miracle based on ultimate result of man's labor - we are fellow workers c God.
7. In spite of absurdity, privacy, limited flash she obeyed implicitly.
8. Modus operandi left to woman.
9. Help poor improve what little they have by own industry & ingenuity.

E. Bring more vessels.

1. Our little c God is big enuf.
2. Vessels exhausted - but not the hand of God.

F. Oil stopped flowing.

1. Stayed - halted, stopped.
2. Oil went as long as empty vessels were there.
3. Amount of oil limited only by no. of vessels there
4. Oil stopped when no longer provisions to care for it.
5. Oil stayed - God won't waste.

G. Lessons seen.

1. The limit of our supply is the limit of our ability to receive.
2. Also by our making right use of what we've got.
3. We hinder by want of faith & expectation.
4. Our blessings limited by our capacity to receive, yet no limit on God's love.
5. God never stints His gifts.

Isa. 55:1 "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to th

6. He measures His endowments by our capacity to receive.

Ps. 107:9 "For he satisfieth the longing soul, and fille

7. We have a lot to do c our measure of mercy.
8. Resolution of crises limited only by our obedience of faith.
9. God gives what we ask for.

10. We are never straitened in God - only in ourselv

V. The Conclusion.

A. Pay your debt & live.

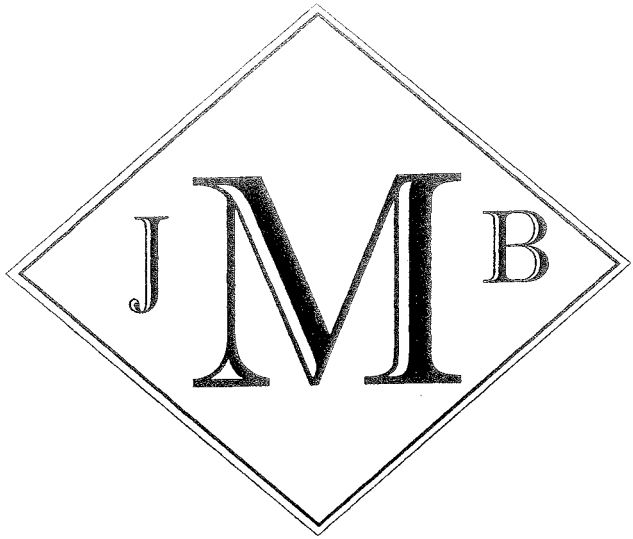
1. Not to have luxuries while still we have debts.

- 2. Not to keep oil for own use when still we owe others - our wills start this way.
- 3. 1st meet your obligations.
- 4. We are to be fed, not feasted.
- 5. Choice gifts are not to complacent self.
- 6. Felt need to ask how to use oil since it came by E. instrumentality.

B. Do I see:

- 1. Miracles always things of charity - not show as God magnifies His goodness c power.
- 2. Can't we still depend on God?
- 3. Can we empty 1st our vessels so God can fill?
- 4. Do we bring vessels of desire & expectancy and obedience?
- 5. Do we increase what we have by using it?
- 6. Always the need to spend ourselves in meeting human need - herein we fulfill our prophetic calling.

best End 11-27-83



WHEN FAITH IS OBEYED

2 Kings 4:1-7

- I. At times perhaps all of us have been desperate for help.
 - A. We are down to our last resource.
 - B. We ask for aid and willingly accept needs of compliance.
 - C. We respond with a promptness.
 - D. Having complied we leave the matter in the hands of God.

- II. Our story has to do with a widow and her family living in the way of God -- 2 Kings 4:1-7.

Let's see the details.

 - A. Certain widow of sons of prophet.
 1. Faithful folk have problems.
 2. Faithful service to God does not grant immunity to troubles.
 3. Though we may ask "why" still great emergencies come and present problems bigger than our resources.
 4. Though I've never seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread, we still walk in the shadow of need.
 - B. We all know our Elishas.
 1. Families make their appeals to God's servants.

2. Why have we established the personal and public Agapes?
 3. Staff calls for counselors.
 4. Grateful for men and whomen who so serve.
 5. Widow goes to Elisha
 - a) Replaces Elijah.
 - b) Wealthy man, plows with 12 yoke of oxen.
 - c) Implied extensive holdings.
 - d) Earlier acquaintance with Elijah and other prophets.
- C. Presents honesty the problem.
1. Faithful husband is dead.
 2. Owes rightfully a debt and wants to pay it--not avoid it--honest in condition.
 3. Has 2 children--can be sold as slaves.

Exo. 21:7-12

Lev. 25:39

4. Sell thieves also.

Exo. 22:3

5. Jesus makes reference.

Matt. 18:25

- D. Elisha asks, "What shall I do for thee?"
1. Rightful question.
 2. How much are you doing--what's in your house?

3. What are you willing to do to comply?
 4. How far do we go to satisfy just debts?
- E. Her possession a pot of oil.
1. Not hiding anything.
 2. Not resorting to some scam.

III. The Procedure

- A. Take your only pot of oil.
1. Oil to eat and give light.
 2. Fully comply.
 3. Follow implicitly the instructions.
- B. Go borrow all of neighbors' empty vessels--"not a few."
1. Do it now.
 2. Expect much.
- C. Go home, shut self and kids in, pour into vessels, set aside when full.
1. She exactly complied.
 2. God's instructions are not to be tampered with--exactly!
 3. Filled all the vessels.
 4. Son bring more.
 5. There is not a vessel moved.
 6. Lesson to her children as they see the hand of God.
 7. Only the Lord could do this and no way it could be cheating.

D. Oil stayed.

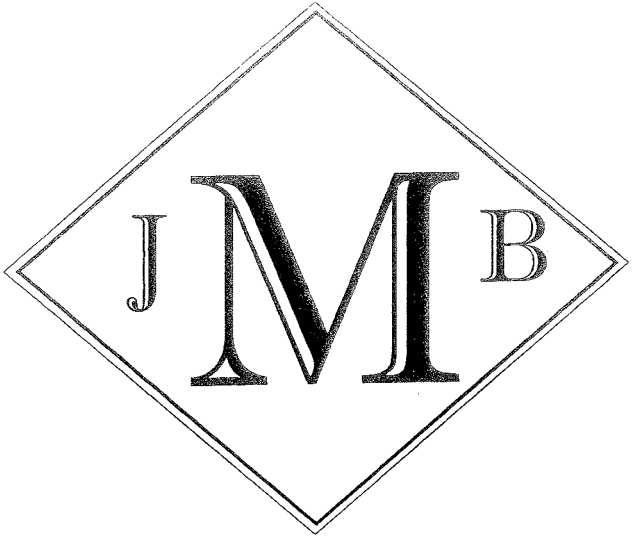
1. Same power that started flow stopped it.
2. Obedience brought full plenty.

E. Go tell prophet results.

1. Still necessary to be instructed.
2. Go sell and pay debts.
3. Live off the rest after debts paid.
4. Don't hoard, now hide.

IV. What does this say to you?

- A. God has answered that test our faith.
- B. Life has its changes and they may engulf us.
- C. God's method even to minuteness is always right.
- D. He can enlarge our meager resources, be it 10 or 1 talent.
- E. Keep properly our human relations.
- F. Ever guided by the Word.



THAT BALANCED FAMILY

2 Kings 4:8-

- I. My assignment is to speak on mother-child relationship.
 - A. Add to this you have a balanced, nuclear family.
 - B. The idea is not to be mine but does God speak about the matter?
 1. Isolated mothers: Hannah, Sarah, Mary, and Elizabeth to name a few.
 2. Children? What about Samuel, Timothy (earthly and child of the gospel) Jesus.
 - C. But can I find a Biblical family that incorporates high ideals?
 1. So I'm not general views about mothers.
 2. Not praise of one excellent child.
 3. But the story of a religious family that knew joys, successes, heart-aches, victories--is that not like yours?
 4. So let's go to the nameless family of 2 Kings 4:8 on.

II. Story of 2 Kings 4

- A. It begins with a special childless couple who loved prophets and their proclamation.

1. They lived at Shunem and we are never told their names.
2. First let's locate their town.
 - a) Plain of Esdraelon, southwest of Little Hermon.
 - b) Bread basket of Israel.
 - c) Few miles north of Jezreel.
3. Lady identified as a Shunammite--but more of that geography.
 - a) Great woman.
 - 1) Only one in Bible so called.
 - 2) Great in generosity, hospitality, supporter of work of God.
 - 3) Well situated financially.
 - 4) Keeble said don't marry for money, but OK to find one who's got it.
 - 5) Moved in great social circles--could speak to the king as well as commander of the armies.
 - 6) Yet humble and supportive of the spiritual side of life.
 - 7) Great for a mother--though not one yet--to have these attributes.
 - 8) Elisha the prophet often stopped at this house and received great hospitality.
 - 9) Not everyone of this disposition to do this either via money or character.

- 10) Sinclair told me he had thousands of things to eat-- called them all beans.
 - 11) Husband surely in agreement "Brother Cowpasture will you offer thanks?"
 - 12) Like Lydia she constrained Elisha to eat.
 - 13) This wealthy family often "kept the preacher."
 - 14) She entertained him repeatedly.
- b) This woman a good judge of character.
 "I perceive that this is a holy man of God."
- 1) Do we have that reputation?
 - 2) Term repeated often in this story 8 times.
 - 3) Husband agreed--he viewed Elisha as a holy man of God.
 - 4) Mothers, do you want this type of company in your home?
- c) She suggests to her husband they fix the prophet a chamber.
- 1) Called "little" - but big enough.
 - 2) On wall, adequate, private, like a porch (Joe Gill on his porch when 4° below zero).

- 3) An inner place with seclusion.
 - 4) "Real men need small amount of comfort." (Meyers)
 - 5) Note she's observant--sees an opportunity.
 - 6) Free from family, quiet.
 - 7) James and Avanelle Baird did this.
- d) Equipment met every need via furniture.
- 1) Bed, table, stool (chair, same word for royal throne seat), candlestick.
 - 2) His presence would be good for the family.
- e) Elisha turned into chamber, lay there as he used what was provided for him.
- 1) He loathed to be trouble.
 - 2) He also felt a debt of gratitude.
 - 3) "My mother fixed for preachers and they never thanked her."

II. Elisha shows appreciation.

A. Verse 12 introduces Gehazi, servant.

B. Call the Shunammite.

1. He will propose good things.
2. She stood before him.

3. Careful for us "with all this care."
- C. What is to be done for you?
1. Speak to king.
 2. Speak to captain of host.
 3. Elisha would not do this unless he could bring it to reality.
 4. Husband needs a promotion?
- D. Her answer, "I dwell amongst mine own people."
1. Great to have a satisfied wife.
 2. Great also to have a wife of influence.
 3. As a wife, do you promote your husband? (I held meetings all over western Kansas due to Betty's influence).
 4. We are well off as we ever are.
 5. She was a lady of wealth and influence.

1 Sam. 25:2

2 Sam. 19:32

6. Are we satisfied with what we've got?
7. Their home was happy even without children.
8. When ours grew up and left home Betty asked, "What do we have left?" I said, "Same thing we started with--namely me."

9. They are united in loving each other.

10. Shalom

E. Gehazi pointed out they had no children and husband was old.

1. Something lacking.

2. Husband old--you have younger legs to help his wife.

3. Call her--she stood in the door.

a) Modest

b) No room for doubt

F. Told her they'd have a child (V-16), "embrace a son."

1. Told sex before conception.

2. Do not lie to thine handmaid.

3. Too good to be true.

4. Now one to who leave estate.

5. Promise in proper time fulfilled.

6. Bareness taken away.

7. Wonderful way to convey gratitude.

8. She'd not asked for this but came as part of God's bounty.

9. All other blessings could not compare to having a child.

*Ecc
2*

III. A day of sorrow.

A. Does it not come to all of us?

B. On what do you rely?

C. Child is grown.

1. Daddy teaches him to work.

2. Ours with reapers.

3. If don't each a child a trade, you teach him to steal.
- D. Cry "my head, my head."
1. Not told it was a sunstroke.
 2. Daddy said, "Carry him to his mother."
 3. Mother's love is magnificent as she kisses away hurts.
 4. Calmer?
- E. Sat on her knees til noon and then died.
1. She had him too short a time.
 2. Her love could not overcome death.
 3. She took him to room of man of God and put him on his bed.
 4. Shut the door and said virtually nothing.
 5. All this happened that the word of God could be made manifested.
 6. God will be praised.
- F. Called her husband and made request.
1. Young man.
 2. One of the asses.
 3. I'll "run" to man of God.
 4. Told husband nothing more--not even the death of the boy.
 5. So sure prophet would help, say nothing.
 6. No point in grieving him since all's well.

7. Child of love taken away but she guards her lips.

G. But he had questions!

1. Why go today?
2. Not new moon nor Sabbath.
 - a) Shows they were religious people.
 - b) Declares his interest in his wife.
3. He trusts her and she has no time to explain.
4. He didn't try to stop her.
5. Did he know the child died?
6. She made no provisions for burial.
7. He made no comment.

H. She leaves with great haste.

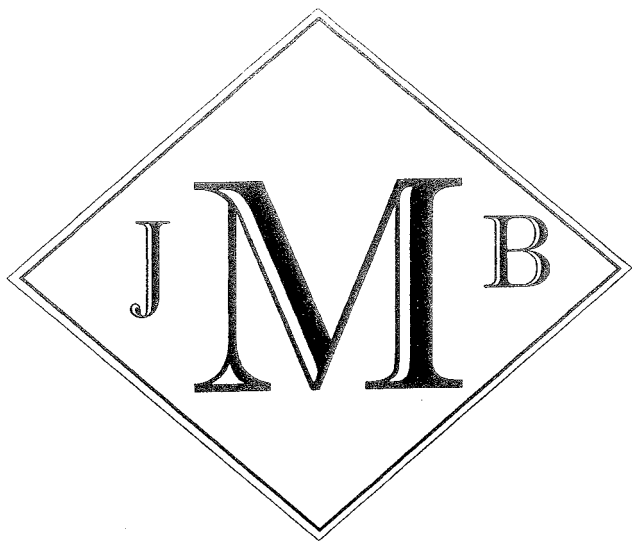
1. Saddle on ass.
2. Drive, go forward, keep donkey moving.
3. Don't stop for me except I ask.
4. Quite a journey.
 - a) 5 to 6 hours to top of Carmel
 - b) 15 miles

I. Elisha saw her afar off and identified her.

1. Sent Gehazi to meet her.
2. Is it well? With husband? With child?
3. It is well--can we say that in death?

4. Answered very little details.
 5. Could see she 's overcome with a burden.
- J. Greets Elisha violently.
1. Falls at feet.
 2. Gehazi sees this as disrespect and moves to remove her.
 3. Let her alone--her troubles are hidden from me.
 4. Did I ask for a son, did I not say do not deceive me?
- K. Elisha immediately knew.
1. Said Gehazi--gird up loins, take my staff, go, speak to no one, acknowledge no greetings, be brief.
 2. Lay staff on face of child.
 3. She said "I'll not leave you."
 4. All went--how great is a mother's love!
 5. Staff placed, neither voice nor hearing the child not awakened.
 6. "Don't put too much importance on me" Elisha shows.
- L. Elisha's Final Action
1. Found child dead and on his bed.
 2. Went in and shut the door with just the two of them.
 3. Prayed to the Lord (Acts 20:10-12)
 - a) Staff didn't work

- b) Woman had little faith in it--
wanted Elisha to come.
4. Laid on child: mouth to mouth, eyes upon his eyes, hands on his hands.
 5. Stretched himself on child.
 6. Felt child's flesh wax, warm.
 7. Leaves and walks in the house to and fro, successive steps, not discouraged.
 8. Back to child and stretched himself.
 9. Child sneezes 7 times.
 10. Opens his eyes.
 11. Do we give of ourselves to save our children?
 12. Had Gehazi call the mother "take up thy son."
 13. Went in, fell at his feet, bowed to the ground.
 14. "Took up her son and went out."



THE EXTENSION OF COURTESY DEMANDS
A COMMENSURATE EXTENSION OF
RESPONSE (2 Kings 4:8-37)

I. The longer I live, both by faith and applied experience I find the words of Jesus perfectly true.

A. Consider His statement on service.

1. The Son of Man came not to be ministered.
2. He who would be greatest, let him be servant of the most.
3. It is more blessed to give than to receive.

B. Though these words are irrevocably true I do not deny that the failure to appreciate on the part of one to whom I give does not distress me.

1. I don't give to be thanked, yet neither can I allow ungratitude to go unchallenged.
2. I don't grant to another to obligate, but he is just the same.
3. I don't teach a one sided doctrine as though the world owes me a living and I owe it nothing in return.
4. If giving is glorious, responding to it graciously is just as Biblical. That's the purpose of this lesson.

II. The Story of the Shunammite - 2 Kings 4:8-37.

A. Elisha works Shunem.

1. Shunem is a village on the edge of the grain fields of Esdraelon. Galilee area.
2. Elisha's ministry led him there.

B. In Shunem was a great woman.

1. Only one in Bible called great.
2. She was woman of substance.
3. Her character was as great as her affluency.
4. You would think her influence was as wide as her wealth.
5. Her greatness, as Dean suggests, embraced her love, wisdom, faith, silence.
6. She was a perceptive lady and like Anne Leaver would take no denial.
7. We will see it is possible, tho rare, to mix piety & prosperity.

C. For Elisha she has help.

1. She constrained (margin laid hold on) him to eat bread.
2. She did this as oft as he passed by. Here Elisha felt quite comfortable.
3. She saw he was a holy man of God.
 - (a) It was a careful examination.
 - (b) It was an appreciated finding.
 - (c) One has well said, "Like perceives like."
 - (d) There is value in people recognizing a preacher.
4. She proposed the construction of a chamber.

- (a) Furnished with bed, table, stool, & candlestick.
- (b) She knew he needed necessities.
- (c) She knew he needed security from interruptions.
- (d) Prophet needs time for prayer, study, meditation & writing if he is to do his forth telling.
- (e) This would give him vital privacy.

D. Elisha's turn to respond.

- 1. Had Gehazzi call the woman.
- 2. Some strange & delicate things unfold.
 - (a) She stood in the door.
 - (1) She brings no form of question or misunderstanding on the conduct of the prophet.
 - (2) She avoids thus any impropriety or suspicion.
 - (3) Also shows the awe she had for man of God.
 - (b) Elisha spoke thru servant.
 - (1) This would help her overcome her awe.
 - (2) By a witness his words were established.

3. Elisha offers to respond.

V. 13 "Say now unto her, Behold thou

- (a) He feels constrained to return a favor
- (b) It was not an idle offer - he could get king or captain to respond.

4. She gently answered, "I dwell among my own people." (V. 13)
- (a) She had no selfish motive - she was kind to him because of what he was, not what she wanted out of him.
 - (b) To dwell among own people Kiel said means "I merely belong to the people, live quietly & peaceably among them & thus have no need for the King's intercession."
 - (c) She sought no favors or honor.
5. Gehazzi reminds Elisha she has no child
- (a) Barrenness was bad.
I Sam. 1:6-7
 - (b) Her husband was old (V. 14) - whether deadness of him or growing feebleness to protect I don't know, she needed a son.
6. Son Promised; Son-Promise ~~Q~~ Questioned
Son-Promise fulfilled.
- (a) Came "about this season."
 - (b) She begged she not be fooled. She wanted no deceptive hopes excited.
 - (c) It happened.
V. 17 "And the woman conceived, & ba
7. Not germane to the emphasis of this lesson but still vital to the chapter are further events.
- (a) Boy goes to field as country boys like to do & watch.

- (b) "My head, my head".
- (c) Child sick, he wants mamma - take him there. (V. 19)
- (d) She held him till noon, died, place on prophet's bed & closed the door.
- (e) W/o explanation to husband - he could trust her - and with the fending word "Peace" she resolutely goes 16 miles to Carmel & the prophet.
 - (1) Mind is a slave to conventionalities
 - (2) Some occasions demand their dismissal.
- (f) She acted quickly, serenely & was firm in her affections & afflictions.
- (g) Grief shrinks from putting things in words - Great sorrow is reticent.
- (h) Gehazzi goes - staff - "there was neither voice nor hearing" (V. 31)
- (i) Elisha closed door, prayed, (note power), & lay on child; 2nd effort, 7 sneezes; opened eyes "Take up thy Son" (V. 36)

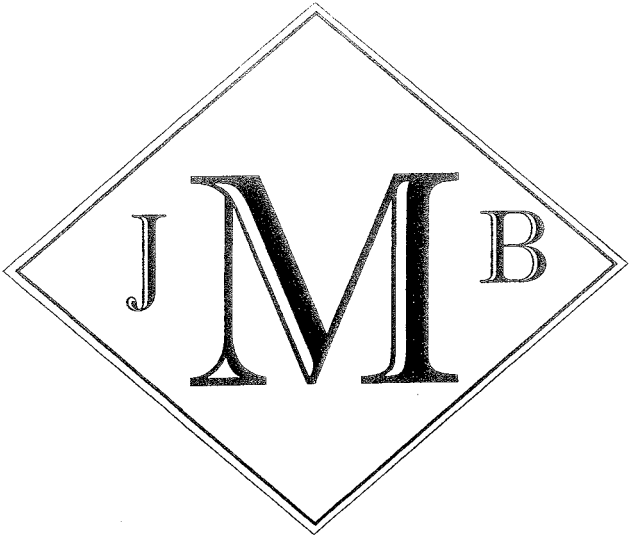
III. But the purpose of the lesson -

- A. All of us have received chambers, what did we give in return?
- B. All of us have received the "It's-not-necessaries". What have we used to surmount this barrier?
- C. All of us are in debt--how have we & how will we discharge our gratitude

obligation?

West End 2-28-71

T.P.S. Religious Emphasis Week 4-2-71



A GREAT WOMAN AND HER STORY

2 Kings 4:18-35

- I. It's a famous old miracle involving a woman called great!
 - A. There are hundreds of reasons as we look at Elam's Notes, Feb. 12, 1922.
 - B. We keenly respect the scholarship of our forebearers and we learn much.

II. It happened at Schunem.

A. About this town.

1. Small of tribe of Issachar (Josh. 19:17-18).
2. Near head of valley of Jezreel.
3. Southern slope of hill of Moreh, also called Little Hermon.
4. Jezreel most fertile valley.
5. Schunem four miles north of city, Jezreel seven miles south of Nazareth, 16 miles east of Mount Carmel.

B. Earlier events.

1. Philistines camped here before fatal battle on Mt. Gilboa where Saul and sons lost their lives (1 Sam. 28:4).
2. Here David's nurse lived, her name Abishag (1 Kings 1:3).
3. Home of the "great woman," any other ever so called?

- 4. Nabal, a fool, called very great due to his possessions (1 Sam.25:2)
- 5. Barzillai also called great (2 Sam. 19:32).
- 6. Elisha spent time in this area.
- 7. Mount Carmel trial with Elijah and Baal.

III. Our story has to do with Elisha's visit "it fell on a day that passed to Schunem.

- A. He often passed this way and his woman "constrained him to eat bread" (2 Kings 4:8).
 - 1. He accepted hospitality--he's no religious tramp on the brotherhood.
 - 2. This was a proper action for a prophet, half-way between Samaria and Carmel.
 - 3. Family only husband, wife and servants though names not given.
 - 4. She saw he was a holy man of God (v-9).
- B. The Enlarged Invitation
 - 1. She suggested to her husband they provide a "little chamber on the wall." *B2nd upper floor Mission*
 - 2. They put in it a bed, table, seat, candlestick (v-10).
 - 3. Elisha was appreciative of great privacy, rest, quiet as we try to emulate it today.

4. Character of our guest affects our homes--he was a blessing.

Matt. 10:40-42 *Revere* *- do not*
 Heb. 13:2 *Do not fear of* *entertain strangers*
 Rom. 12:13 *practice* *hospitality*
 1 Tim. 3:2 *Hospitable*

5. He had frequent access and he needed to do something in return.

- a) Speak to the king?
 b) Speak to the general?

6. She sought no favors.

C. Gehazi: pointed out she was childless.

1. Great joy to rear children.
2. She wondered at the ability to fulfill the offer--don't mock.
3. Child came.
 - a) Blessing to receive.
 - b) Child worked in the field and helped.

4. Sunstroke took him?

5. Taken home by servant to his mother's arms where he died at noon.

6. Laid on Elisha's bed, saddled ass and went 16 miles as servant drove beast speedily with goad.

D. Met with Elisha.

1. He recognized her coming and knew something amiss.
2. Sent Gehazi to meet her with whom she had little to do.

3. Disposed of him "it is well."
4. Can we say "it is well" when our loved ones pass?
5. Fell at Elisha's feet.
6. Gehazi tried to take her away.
7. Inspired men, little Elisha do not know every thing. *WIRE*

V-28 "Did I desire a son?"

- a) Was content with childlessness.
- b) Better to never have than lose him.
- c) Why would God so quickly take child away?
- d) Felt Elisha could comfort her.

E. Death Scene

1. Sent Gehazi to lay staff on face of child.
2. Don't stop on the way--don't divert him.
3. V-32 - Did Elisha know he was dead?
4. Elisha may not have planned to go but woman would not leave without him.
5. Did she doubt Gehazi?
6. Persistence prevailed "he arose and followed her."
 - a) Persistence is important.
 - b) Jacob and angel (Gen. 32:24-32)
 - c) Widow (Luke 18:1-8).
7. Staff ineffective in hand of Gehazi.
8. Later effective with Elisha.

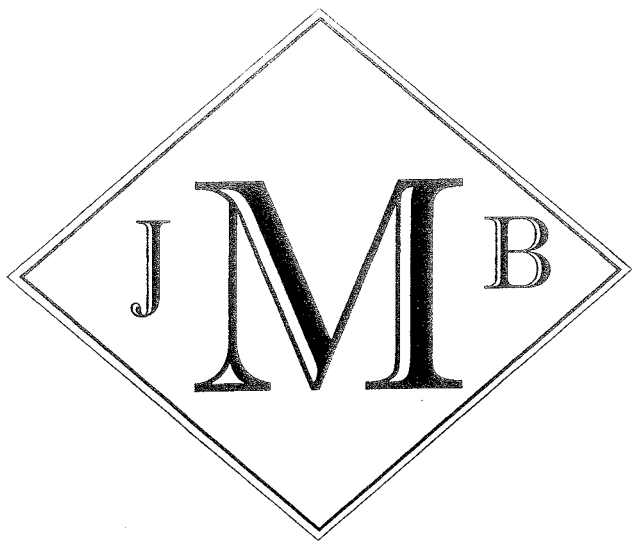
9. Demons out by fasting and prayer.
10. Lipscomb "God's spirit is effective when one's spirit is in complete harmony with his will."
11. Gehazi reported failure.
12. Elisha entered house and saw child was dead.

F. Elisha and Restoration.

1. Elisha entered, shut door, prayed.
2. Peter prayed by raising Dorcas (Acts 9:40).
3. Used natural means as Hezekiah used fig poultice (Isa. 38:1-8).
4. Elisha lay on child, mouth to mouth, eye to eye, hands to hands.
5. Stretched self on him and child grew warm.
6. God wants us with our prayers to use all natural means in our power, then look to him for help.
7. Elisha walked to and fro--to warm up.
8. Another stretching and seven sneezes, opened eyes.
9. Think of mother's anxiety in adjoining room.
10. Gehazi called, had him call mother.
11. Take up thy son - v-36.
12. Took him off bed where earlier she'd placed the boy.
13. Bowed to the ground in gratitude.
14. Deepest joy and gratitude.

Fishinger & Kenny BC - 5/8/05

Old Union BC - 7-24-05



THE MAN FROM BAALSHALISHA

II Kings 4:42-43

I. Many "little" Bible stories tell in breathtaking brevity the divinity of God & the humanity of man.

A. The man from Baalshalisha does it.

B. Please see the story with the hope you'll see the "now power" of God & the same frailty of current man.

C. Our text is II Kings 4:42-43.

II. Reflections from the story.

A. It's time - a dearth in the land (V. 38).

1. Wonderful to think how God supplies.

Gen. 8:22 "While the earth remaineth, seed time

2. Can we give when it's hard?

3. Remember the widow's mite.

4. Give us our daily bread - lot involved.

B. The unknown contributor.

1. Called only the man from Baalshalisha.

2. Town was once Shalisha, near Mt. Ephraim (I Sam. 9:4). - *Spain & Asses*

3. Jezebel had added her god's name to it.

4. Here from town of idolatry was one who loved the Lord.

5. God preserves a remnant.

C. The Contribution - 1st fruits.

1. 1st fruits belong to God.

Exo. 23:19 - Bring 1st fruits to house of Lord

2. It's a way of acknowledging God's goodness.
Deut. 26:1-11

3. 1st fruits belong to priest.

Ezek. 44:30 "The 1st of all the 1st fruits

- 4. Elisha not a priest.
- 5. Man was doing best he could under circumstances
- 6. Suppose he knew his small act would feed 100 men & be preserved for all time? Your deeds can multiply to much.
- 7. Note the thoughtfulness - bread now - grain for some tomorrow. Do we present our gifts in best form?

Antique story

8. Our gift & donors may surprise us?

D. The unselfishness of the recipient.

- 1. Elisha said give the people to eat.
- 2. This spirit must abide.

Lu. 6:38 "Give & it shall be given unto

3. We must not be selfish but share.

Prov. 11:25 "The liberal soul shall be made ~~fat~~

E. Benevolence has opposition.

- 1. Servitor objected.
- 2. Was he thinking of himself, was it a foolish move study reasons why we object.
- 3. Will you halt because others stumble?

Heb. 11:27 "By faith . . . he endured as seeing

4. Do you believe God will leave you out if you give sacrificially?

5. Do you feel the more you have the greater your obligation to give?

"Freely ye have rec., freely give"

F. Victory - God honors those who trust Him!

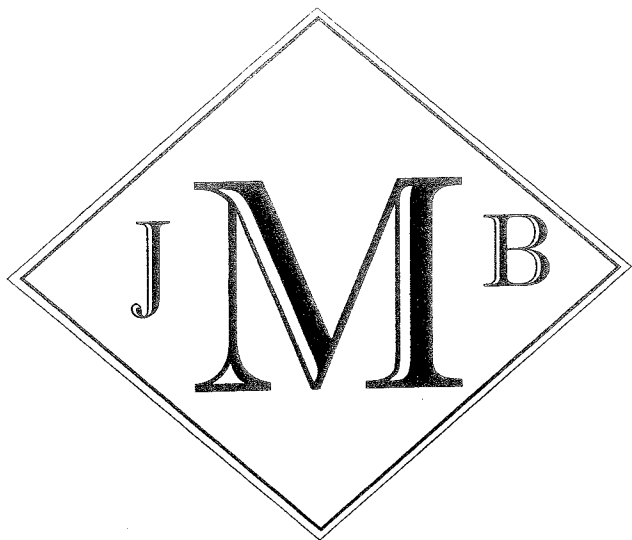
best End 9-10-72
Radio, Franklin, Tex. 9-11-72.

“Antiques”

LURED by a sign *Antiques*, my husband and I stopped at a cottage where two old ladies ushered us into the living room and served tea. When we asked to see the antiques, one said hesitantly, “We’re the antiques!”

Then they told about their loneliness. “We needed friends,” one explained. “But how to make them? That’s when we thought of the *Antiques* sign. Only nice people appreciate lovely things. But remember, our sign doesn’t say *Antiques for Sale*.”

“We’ve made so many lasting friendships,” the other added, “that we know God isn’t angry about our little trick!”



THE LADY AND THE LEPER

2 Kings 5:1-6

I. Perhaps no OT story more famous than Naaman's healing.

A. Value in study.

Rom. 15:4 "For whatsoever things were written aforet"

B. But I want to see before the healing the leper & the lady.

II. About the Leper I know 7 things.

A. His name was Naaman.

B. Captain of the host.

1. Position of prominence.

2. Summit of profession.

3. Joe Namath said he hadn't peaked yet.

C. Great Man c His Master.

1. Not jealous.

2. Knew he was appreciated - joy of Christmas cards.

3. Trusted him - didn't think he'd organize a coup.

D. Honorable.

1. His work was recognized.

E. Lord used him.

V. 1 "by him the Lord gave deliverance"

1. Some passages:

Ps. 127: 1 "Except the Lord build the house they labo

Jer. 10:23 "The way of man is not in himself; it is not

2. Divine providence used are not his.

F. Mighty man of valor.

1. Brave.

2. Daring.

3. Fearless.

4. Well equipped for calling.

G. But he was a leper.

1. God's word doesn't flatter men.

Ps. 39:5 "Every man at his best state is altogether vanity"

Rom. 3:10-11 "There is none righteous, no not 1"

Col. 1:21 "And you, that were sometime alienated and"

John 3:36 "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting"

Eph. 4:18 "Alienated from the life of God through the"

Isa. 1:6 "Wounds & bruises & putrifying sores; they have"

H. Facts about leprosy.

1. Has - like sin - an insignificant beginning.

Lev. 13:2 "a rising, a scab or brite spot"

(a) So trivial pay no attention.

(b) Yet sin starts small - works havoc.

2. Works insidiously & imperceptibly.

(a) Attended at first c little pain.

(b) Like sin.

Heb. 3:13 "Deceitfulness of sin,"

3. It's highly contagious. *enter not into the path of the wicked & ye will not be defiled*

1 Cor. 15:33 "Evil communications corrupt good manners"

Prov. 4:4-5 "He taught me also, and said unto me

4. It brings banishment. *avoid - from us by - taken from us - pass away*

Lev. 13:46 "He shall dwell alone, w/o the camp s"

(a) Treated as are dead.

(b) Excluded.

5. They felt it took God to cure it.

(a) No Dr. in Israel could.

(b) Rather came to priest.

III. Look at the Lady.

A. She was a captive.

2 Kings 5:2 "And the Syrians had gone out by compar

1. Get contrasts:

Gentile vs. Jew.

Great man vs. little maid.

Naaman vs. unnamed.

Captain vs. captive.

2. Think of the shock if it came to your family -
daughter snatched away by soldiers.

(a) Why me?

(b) Why Abraham's children such a lot c a heathen?

Ps. 31:11 "My times are in thy hand

Acts 17:26 "Hath determined... bounds

B. Note her spirit.

1. V. 3 wishes him well.

2. No enmity or hatred.

3. Was not pleased he was hurting.

4. Does our circumstance make us rebellious?

5. Do we complain against God & captor?

6. Can we glorify God "in the fires" (Isa. 24:15)

7. Can you imagine a position more defenseless?

8. Or one c less opportunities?

C. Her integrity.

1. V. 4 one reported her words.

2. Her words carried power of attention.

3. Could she offer more than the best of Syrian?

4. Do you see God using the little things? Every-
thing against her, yet she was effective.

5. Won even tho misunderstood.

(a) Never mentioned King - only prophet.

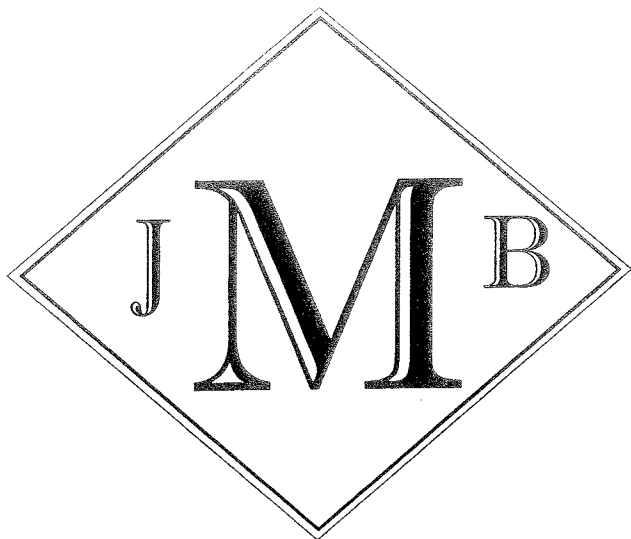
(b) Said nothing of \$70,000 gifts - God's grace a
gift.

(c) Counsel like turning to empty cistern.

IV. Do I see:

- A. Earth's frailty?
- B. Heaven's power?
- C. Man's need to tell it?

Ther End 12-24-72



SECRETS OF THE BEDROOM

II Kings 6:8-17

I. How many people are you to serve?

A. Those that serve me?

B. Believe as I do.

C. Ones who will be profitable later.

D. Poor.

E. Blacks.

F. Everybody.

Gal. 6:10 "Do good unto all men

G. See it related to Kings.

I Pet. 2:17 "Supp., prayers, intercessions
thanx - all men - Kings - authority.

II. Tell story of II Kings 6.

A. Then the King of Syria warred.

1. Forgot kindnesses to Naaman?

2. Short gratitude?

3. Return evil for good.

4. War.

Rom. 3:15 "Feet swift to shed blood"

Ecc. 8:11 "Heart set to do evil

B. Set an ambush.

1. So Satan does for us.

2. He lays careful plans.

C. Elisha delivers.

1. Syrian left God out of plans.

Amos 3:7 "The Lord God...revealeth his secrets

2. Elisha used his power to good of all men.

3. Don't we warn saint & sinner?

4. Having been warned is not God free of our blood.

5. King checked it out & found it true.

1 Thess. 5:21 "Prove all things, hold fast

D. Syrian troubled.

1. Didn't have place for God in his thots.

2. Felt he had traitor in camp.

3. Was told about the seer's ability.

4. He knows secrets of a bedchamber. See Verse 12,

E. Spy Out His Place.

1. Was at Dothan (double feast).

2. Remove obstacle in my way was what King thot.

3. Adversary is persistent.

4. Came c great army.

V. 14 - Read.

5. Came by nite - evil likes it.

F. New Servant Saw Foe. (V. 17) Young.

1. Young believer will have troubles.

2. "Alas, how shall we do?"

(a) Weak.

(b) Timid.

(c) Distracted.

3. Novice sees many problems.

4. We have foes.

Eph. 6:12 "For we wrestle not against.

G. Answer to Doubt.

1. Fear not.

1 Jn. 4:4 "Greater is he that is in you

2. Pray.

V. 17 "Elisha prayed

Isa. 26:3 "Thou wilt keep him in

3. No scoffing, reprimand, or ridicule.

Rom. 15:1 "Ought to bear infirm. of weak

H. Lord opened his eyes.

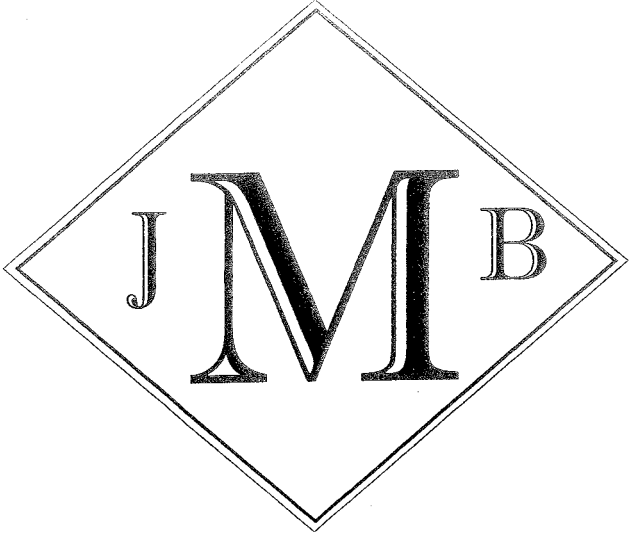
II Kings 6:17

Ps. 34:7 "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him & delivereth them.

Heb. 1:14 ministering spirits.

Rom. 8:31 "If God be for us, who can be against us?

West End 1-7-73



EVANGALISM--LIFE BLOOD OF THE CHURCH

II Kings 7:3-9

I. Some questions please:

A. How many people did Jesus want to hear the gospel? 35000 more (all creation)

B. Who did he intend carry news? (church)

1. What church preaches Mark 16:16?

C. What part as a Christian do you share?

1. This is the one I can't answer fully--don't know your heart.

II. I have an O.T. story to tell. 2 Kings 7

A. Remember these events.

1. Samaria beseiged King of Syria--blow at capital--Elisha there--would cause whole nation to fall.

2. Benhadad surrounded city and waited for famine to destroy it.

a. We depend on God for daily supplies--unknowingly?

b. Prices sky high.

was it a plant?

(1) Ass head - \$50 in silver.

(2) Dove leavings - \$3.00 in silver.

(3) 1st and most int. question of every age and land "How do we get bread?"

c. Natural affections destroyed two mothers eat baby--petition king.

d. King in secret sack cloth (some folks are better than we think--even Ahab's boy!) threatens Elisha.

3. Elisha's statement of Tomorrow.

a. 1 peck meal for \$1.00.

b. 2 pecks barley for \$1.00.

4. Kings assistant to satire "Shall God open Heaven's window?"

a. Minister shall see but not eat of it.

5. The Lepers.

a. 4 at gates--why sit til die.

b. City won't let us in--what if Syrians kill us--no worse. Our only choice is where we die.

c. Left at twilight.

6. At same twilight....

a. God caused Syria to hear "noise of chariots, horses, great host." Lord of hosts made hosts of Syria hear hosts!

b. Fled in disarray. Left all as it was.

(1) "Fled for their lives."

7. Lepers came.

a. Deserted camp.

b. Entered tent--ate, drank--necessary to satisfy cravings.

c. Covetousness entered--spoiled the tent.

d. Came again to another.

v-9 "Then they said 1 to another

"We do not well

(1) See suffering country man

"The day is a day of good tidings.

(1) We must share material and spiritual.

"If we tarry til the morning lite.

(1) Urgency!

II. Do We Today Share This Conviction?

A. More questions.

1. Do you genuinely believe that Christ's way is the only way?

2. Could you be saved without Him?

3. Does he want everyone to hear?

4. Does he want you his agent?

5. How long since you won someone to Christ?

a. Winning your own family not easy.

(1) "Don't tell Mother--break her heart."

(2) Poem on child of 7

6. How long before you'll try to win someone?

a. Afraid to testify orally to others-- could you bring a child to V.B.S. and B.S.? Consecrated car.

b. Henry Ford "Never asked me."

7. Will you accept it, delegate it, or forget it?

a. Clip on wife.

b. When you visit you follow example of Christ. Matt. 25

c. Visitation bases for judgement.

(1) Lady 50 times.

West End 6/4/61

Kinsley Kan 8/20/61

Sycamore Chapel 9/13/61

Schoonover 10/2/61

Kinston, N.C. 2/5/62

Judose 3/2/62

Central-Church 4/5/62

Central-Senior Church 4/15/62

SHE DIDN'T QUIT

A lady in the church who invited her neighbor to go to services with her, kept count of the times the neighbor refused. It came to forty-nine. She pleasantly mentioned the count to her friend as she issued her fiftieth invitation at the time of a special service. At first the friend declined again, but later called and said she would go. "If you are interested enough in me to ask me fifty times to go, I will go with you and see what it is like." She went and liked what she saw. She returned - and she was converted - all because someone did not give up too soon.

-- Christian Leader--

WAYSIDE PULPIT

Of all the things you wear, your expression is the most important.

A big man is not one who makes mistakes, but one who is bigger than any mistake he makes.

Selected.

HE TOLD ME IN ALL SINCERITY THAT:

He wanted to come to church services but had no way; yet he goes everywhere else he wants to go.

He loved lost souls and wanted them to be saved; yet he never finds time or opportunity to speak the words of life to anyone.

He wanted to win his wife to Christ yet he misses worship services often, takes a social drink now and then, and is often irritable and unkind to her.

He truly loves the Lord; yet he does not enjoy worship to God enough to be present at every service.

Now I am in a quandary for he told me in all

"Ere your child has reached the Seven
Have him taught the way to heaven:
Better still, if he(or she) would thrive,
He should know before he's five;
Best of all if at your knee;
He knows the way before he's three."

"YOU NEVER ASKED. . ."

When Henry Ford purchased a large insurance policy for himself, the Detroit newspaper publicized the action since the amount was so large. One of the articles was read by an old friend of Ford's who happened to be in the insurance business. Being surprised completely by the purchase, since he had not heard that Ford was in the market for insurance, this friend went to him and asked if the story were true. The friend asked why the policy was not bought from him since he was a friend and had been in the insurance business for a number of years.

Henry Ford's reply was, "You never asked me."

Can it be possible that someone will miss being a Christian because you never asked him?

Bible School 9:00 a. m. Sunday, Worship, 10:00 a. m.

AN EVANGELIST

(Continued from page 9)

the concerned?" What can we do to recapture the Biblical concept of every Christian an evangelist, who will witness naturally and spontaneously by his words, his worship, and his godly living, particularly in the home?

Recently Dr. John R. Mott wrote: "The great periods of the church have been those when the lay people have taken their place in the ministry of the church." Not all have been called to preach publicly or administer the sacraments, but all have been called to witness for Christ. There are more than 235 passages in the Bible where this responsibility is laid squarely on the shoulders of the faithful.

There is danger that visiting may be merely social and superficial. Like St. Paul, we must be "determined to know nothing among men save Jesus Christ crucified, delivering unto men all that Christ died for our sins

They turned the world topsy-turvy. In the face of the loving zeal of the early Christians there are many who justly lament the lethargy which has crept into our highly institutionalized churches. We have evangelism programs, but are we truly evangelistic? The one is evangelism on ice, the other is evangelism on fire. Should the flame of allegiance to a cause be burning more brightly in the followers of Marx and Lenin than in the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave His life a ransom for all?

Many still cherish the "clergy concept" of evangelism, looking upon the church as a place to be served instead of a place to serve, a place to be made happy instead of useful in God's vineyard. As Kantonen, in *A Theology of Evangelism*, puts it: "A church which has ceased to be the agency of this creative love which knows no barriers, and has settled down to be a closed corporation of nice, respectable, middle-class people, a bourgeois ghetto as someone has called it, has ceased to be Christian."

A CONCERNED CHRISTIANITY

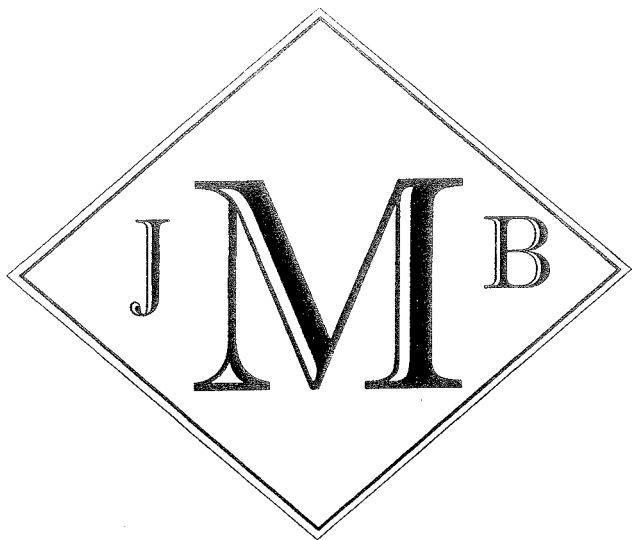
QUESTION IS: "What can we do to . . .
 . . . of the comfortable into
 . . . (continued on page 52)

Often True

In the field of Christian missions,
In this bivouac of life,
You will find the Christian soldier
Represented by his wife!

same truth with his famous slogan:
"Every Baptist a missionary." Dwight
L. Moody was so concerned about our
personal responsibility in evangelism
that he went so far as to say: "No man
is really saved until he has won
another."

We must be concerned about win-



WHEN THE ENEMY SETS THE TABLE

2 Kings 7:8-11

1. Elisha, the man of God, led an eventful life. We want to tell one episode.
1. Background Information.
 - A. Samaria besieged.
 1. Raids had stopped.
 - 2 Kings 6:23 "So the bands of Syria came no more into
 2. Greater evil began as Benhadad marched with great army in all out assault.
 - 2 Kings 6:24 "And it came to pass after this, that Ben-
 - (a) Famine came too.
 - (1) We have one trouble only to encounter another.
 - (2) Devil hits us where we are weak & strong! He's a fiend!
 - 2 Cor. 2:11 "We are not ignorant of his devices
 - (3) Action of Ben. shows how "much" he appreciate God healing Naaman!
 - (4) He'll be reckoned with.
 - Prov. 26:2 "The curse causeless shall not come"
 - (5) Also Samaria deserved it.
 - Isa. 10:5-6 "Assyria; rod of my anger, staff of
 - Jer. 51:20 Nebuchaz. "Battle ax"
 - (b) Cannibalism came.
 - (1) Lady cried for help & king said "if the Lord won't, how can I," in derision. (V. 27)
 - (2) Told of cannibalism.
 - (3) King rent clothes - sackcloth.
 - Joel 2:13 "Rend your heart & not your garments, and t
 - (a) Why not pray?
 - (b) Useless to do outward but not inward I Sam. 15

22 "Behold to obey is better than sacrifice, an

(4) Threatened Elisha.

2 Kings 6:31 "God do so & more also to me if the hear

- (a) Language of hatred.
- (b) Make scapegoat of another.
- (c) Can't hit God, hit his man
- (c) Elisha sat in the house (V. 32).

(1) Those who wait on the Lord have an assurance.

Prov. 1:33 "Who hearkeneth unto me shall dwell *securely*

Ps. 112:7 "His heart is fixed, trusting *in the Lord*

Ps. 37:7 "Rest in the Lord & wait patiently *for him*

B. Elisha's Perdition.

2 Kings 7:1 "Hear ye the word of the Lord; Thus saith

- 1. It will be the enemies that set the tables.
- 2. Instead of despair he announced a forthcoming miracle.
- 3. The word cannot lie. Titus 1:2
- 4. Some met perdition with contemptuous sneer.
- 5. Elisha had little time for the skeptic.

III. God works a miracle.

A. God is sovereign - He employs what He will.

B. Used 4 lepers.

- 1. Excluded folk Lev. 13:46.
- 2. On outside looking in.
- 3. Saw there was something to do--

Jn. 6:27 "Labor for that meat which endureth unto ever

Lu. 13:24 "Strive to enter in at the st.

Acts 2:37 - Do - Repent - Bapt.

- 4. Sit back or knock? Wait or Seek
- 5. No do nothing fatalist.

6. Sitting got them nowhere, so they "rose up"(V.5)
Lu. 14:17 "Come, all things are now ready."

C. Syrians heard sounds (V. 6).

- 1. God works both sides of the street.
- 2. Enemy fled & left possessions.

D. Lepers came.

- 1. Not what God has wrought but our good luck - let's plunder.
- 2. No new thing in people.

Prov. 27:19 "As in water face ans. to face, so the heart of man to man"

- 3. They ate, drank & stole, hid. *heart of man to man*
- 4. Came to senses & went to tell.
- 5. Told porter at gate - he sent word up the line.
- 6. King skeptical - trap - some never satisfied.

Crop fails - good yr. - "mighty hard on the ground."

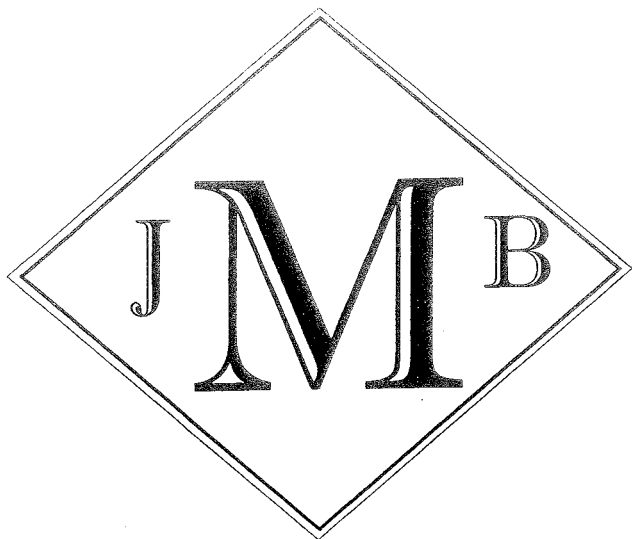
- 7. Sent men to investigate.
- 8. Just as told.

I Kings 8:56 "God...hath not failed one word of all h *his good promises*

E. Enemy set table - fulfilled to very letter.

F. God still will do what He says.

*2hest End 8-4-74
Grant St. Church, Decatur, Ala., Ladies class 8-7-74*



FAITHFUL IN THE WORD

2 Kings 8:7-15

I. It's the story of a King's Death & a Prophet who told an unpleasant truth.

A. God sent Elisha to Damascus.

2 Kings 8:7 "And Elisha came to Damascus; and Benhadad

1. Sad when God bypasses.

Isa. 30:20 Teachers in a corner

2. We are like sheep w/o a shepherd.

Judges 21:25 "Every man did what was right in his own

Ezek. 7:26 "Mischief shall come upon mischief, and re

Amos 8:11 - Famine

3. Turned against Jesus.

Luke 4:28-32

Matt. 8:34 - 9:1

Matt. 12:14-15

Acts 13:46 - To Gentiles.

B. This story has int. features. Main character is:

1. Man.

2. King sends for prophet.

3. He lies.

C. Damascus - world's oldest town - site of it all.

1. Abraham Gen. 14:15

2. Paul Acts 9:19-20

D. In town, Elisha had a painful duty - we must be loyal to truth.

Mk. 16:15-16

Acts 20:26-27

Gal. 4:16

II. Action of the story 2 Kings 8

A. Sick King told that the man of God was come.

1. Kings don't escape pain.

2. Different from earlier attitude.

2 Kings 6:31 "Then he said, God do so and more also."

2 Kings 6:14 "Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots."

3. Man's fickle.

B. Sent to get prognosis of illness. Often aid.

1 Kings 14:1-3

1. More concerned for body than soul?

2. Sent present - shows good will 1 Sam. 9:7

3. Told wouldn't die of disease but would violently.

Amos 3:7 Reveal secrets.

Job 7:1 - appointed time.

Eccles. 7:17 "Be not over much wicked, neither be thou righteous."

C. Hazael liked news.

1. Settled his countenance.

2. Our face betrays us.

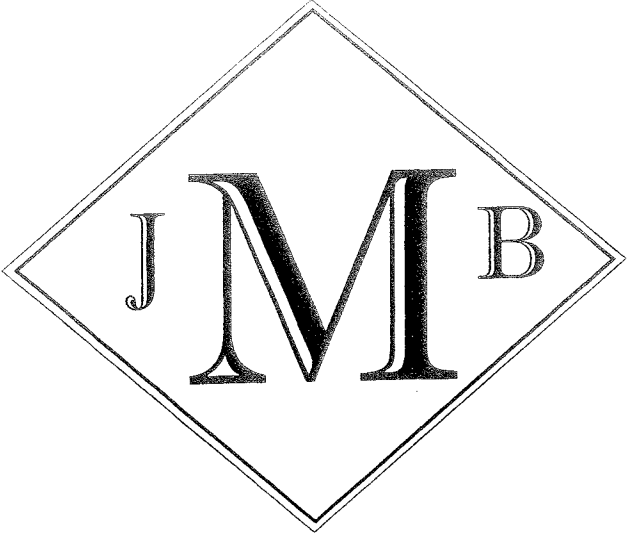
3. Elisha wept over future.

4. Do we under estimate the wickedness in the human heart.

5. He lied to Ben. - later smothered him.

D. Do we faithfully tell?

West End Combined Bible classes 8-31-75
Lee Acres Church, Tupelo, Miss. Young Peoples
Class 9-17-75



GOD'S WORKMEN HAVE STRANGE DUTIES

II Kings 9:1-10

- I. That none can do it all; & that no one is indispensable is a proven fact of Spiritual history.
 - A. Gratitude for leaders needs be expressed.
 - B. Willingness to serve must be evidence.
 - C. Providentially, God raises some to do a specific, yet strange work.

II. Elijah & Elisha had assigned duties.

A. Elijah was to be succeeded.

I Kings 19:16 "And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou kill."

I Kings 19:19 "So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat."

2 Kings 2:9 "And it came to pass when they were gone, that Elisha took his mantle."

2 Kings 2:14 "And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him."

2 Kings 2:15 "And when the sons of the prophets which stood by him saw that Elisha took his mantle from him, they said, Behold, we are dead."

B. Elisha had those that served under him.

2 Kings 4:40 "So they poured out for the men to eat."

2 Kings 6:5 "But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell by the side of him."

2 Kings 6:1 "And the sons of the prophets said unto Elisha, Behold, we are dead."

1. He was overseer of young prophets.

2. They looked to him as boss.

III. To a young servant he (Elisha) assigned duties.

2 Kings 9

A. Elisha himself earlier received an assignment.

I Kings 19:15-16 "And the Lord said unto him, Go, return to the land of the Syrians."

1. Scared Ahab too!

I Kings 21:22 "And will make thine house like the house of Baal."

B. Elisha gave assignment to a deputy.

1. Was he afraid for himself?

Remember:

2 Kings 3:13-14 "And Elisha said unto the king of Israel, 'Behold, I have brought you down to the king of Syria.'

2 Kings 5:9-11 "So Naaman came with his horses and y

2 Kings 6:31-32 "Then he said, God do so and more al

2. Or was he giving a younger man a chance to work

C. Details of event.

1. Let us train the young.

2 Tim. 2:2 "And the things that thou hast heard of me

2. **Note** he knew what Jehu would be doing - where found - sitting!

3. You can depend on word for accuracy.

4. Awkward message to deliver.

5. None of us are free to pick our message.

6. Realize Heaven's commission to you.

7. God is powerful.

Prov. 8:15 "By me kings reign."

8. Note it was a young man.

2 Kings 9:4 - children, (V. 1), young (V.4).

Eph. 3:7-8 "Whereof I was made a minister, according

9. Task may be tough!

10. God will see you thru.

11. Flee - don't wait for compliments or detainment.

12. Implicitly obey - even if they think you "mad" - (V. 11).

13. Sometimes you can't explain your actions to all - here they had to deal in secrecy.

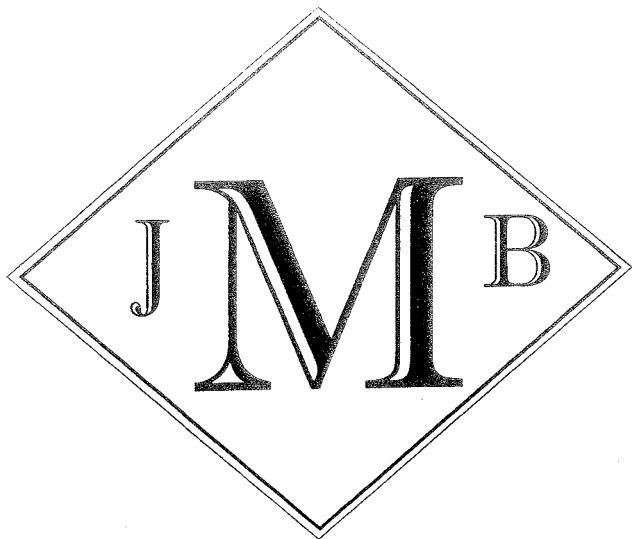
14. Dramatic leaving would impress - do we give folk something to think about?

15. To anoint - was to appoint to solemn service - do we think we belong to God?

16. Jehu & Elisha called to a special work by God, yet both vastly different in nature. God uses all.

17. Be sure you pick your time & place to execute duty.
18. No substitute for true obedience courageously done.

Westend 9/4/75



WOULD YOU TRY TO LOWER THE SEA?

2 Kings 16:10-18

- I. When God speaks, man w/o alteration must obey His word. That applies to: *No addition - Subtract, Omission, or Substitution.*
 - A. Scheme of redemption.
 - B. Worship.
 - C. Work.
- II. Perhaps if we reacquainted ourselves c the Ahaz action it would impress upon us this truth.
 - A. May I tell you the 2 Kings 16 story.
 1. Ahaz met Tiglath-pileser in Damascus.
 - (a) Assyrian monarch held court at central places.
 - (b) Subject princes brot tribute.
 - (c) Was this the reason for his journey.
 2. Here he saw an altar he liked.
 - (a) Was it Assyrian altar?
 - (b) Did he **turn** to false gods for help?
 - 2 Chron. 28:23 "For he sacrificed unto the gods of Da"
 - (c) Was he impressed that Tig. carried with him his own altar perhaps?
 - (d) Was it new & he wanted one?
 3. Sent pattern to Urijah the HP.
 - (a) Build ~~one~~ like it. "According to King."
 - (b) HP was his obsequious servant.
 - (c) Made no objection to this new religious innovation.
 - (d) Did he feel it was right?
 4. On Ahaz return he sacrificed.
 - (a) Did he do it himself or was it having Urijah do it & delight in his new diversion?
 - (b) Made immediate use of his invention.

5. But he needed to do something c the Mosical Brazen Altar.

- (a) One sin leads to another.
- (b) One has said "he's inserted the thin end of the wedge."
- (c) One departure calls for another.
- (d) Reason in the church we are trying to stay c the Book - where would innovations stop & who could call a halt if you let me bring mine?
- (e) Did he remove Solomon's altar so his could be seen. *Called his own? Re-ya altar?*
- (f) Does it mean Ahaz will determine any future use of it? (V. 15) He'll consider & announce later its future? *Just for himself the old altar?*
- (g) Or did he leave it where it was & install his in better place? Interpreter's Bible says this.
- (h) Said he'd "inquire by it." Would he get a special sign? They'd examine the entrails of slain animals & get a sign.
- (i) Note how non-objecting the HP is.

V. 16 "Thus did Urijah the priest according to all that

6. He attacked the laver. He lowered the sea.

(a) 10 lavers - 5 on either side of temple entrance.

I Kings 7:39 "And he put five bases on the right side of
I Kings 7:29 "And on the borders that were between the

(b) Was he wantonly destroying, or discrediting or simply dismantling to move to another place?

(c) 12 oxen supported sea.

I Kings 7:23-26 "And he made a molten sea, ten cubits

(d) Heb. word for sea applies to any body of water -
big bowl!

- (1) 15 feet in diameter at top.
- (2) 47 feet in circumference.
- (3) 7 1/2 feet deep.
- (4) Held 2000 Baths - Heb. largest liquid measure.
- (e) Sea rested on oxen.
- (f) He moved it off its base.

7. Lastly, he tampered c private house of worship for the Kings.

B. Obvious lessons.

- 1. One departure calls for another.
- 2. Heathen gods "the ruin of him & of Israel" 2 Chron ^{28:18}
- 3. There is a way that seemeth right. ^{Prov 4:12}
- 4. Note silence to Royal Profanation - can you accept spoilation? Is our loyalty to Heaven inflexible?
- 5. Could I become interested in the minute of altar trim & ignore the weight of the worship thereon?
- 6. Ahaz moved out of fear of King of Assyria - whom do we fear?
- 7. Innovations provoked the Lord to anger. 2 Chron. 28:25.
- 8. Do I have any right to frustrate the Divine plan? Can I change design, get an item out of plumb (ride my hobby).
- 9. Shall I be careless? (Lynn was putting wedge on my shoe in Tulsa - in hurry picked up a brand new one & scraped its sole - thinking it was my shoe.)
- 10. Do I feel any debt to the past for its contribution to the church?

11. Have I been irreverent?

12. Have I caused others to sin - like Urijah?

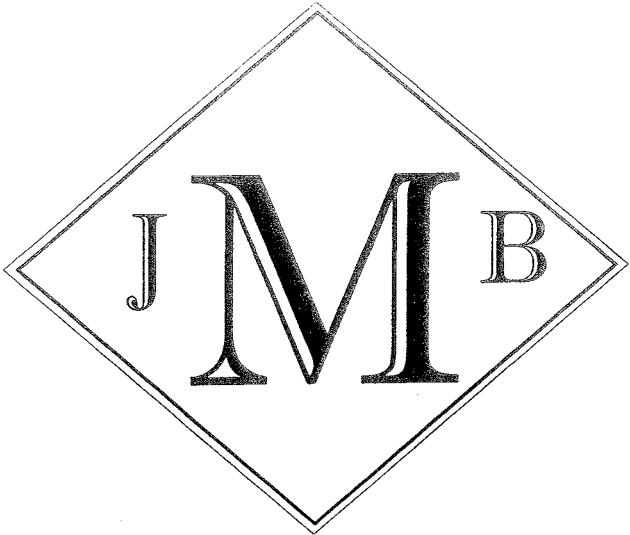
13. Do I seek to fully follow? *See 10:25 "I love J"*

1 Jn. 3:23 "This is his commandment, That we should b

14. *Does the end justify any means? "We've come to worship - doesn't matter how we do it." ???*

West End 11-17-74

Wynnewood Hills church, Dallas 12-4-74



A SERENDIPITY--THE SUMMING OF THE
SILVER 2 Kings 22

I. Serendipity--quite a word--I'm looking for one thing and beautifully receive something else--quite unexpected.

II. So it was, II Kings 22, when men were sent to sum the silver.

A. Let's see the intended duty.

B. Then let us see the finding, seren-
dipitously, the greater treasure.

III. 1st we meet Josiah, it's always good to know a few Kings in life's journey!

A. Quite a contrast.

II Kings 21:22 "Forsook the law of his f."

2 Chron. 33:23 "He trespassed more"

Zeph. 1:9 "Violence & deceit" championed

Zeph. 1:5 Swearing too.

Zeph. 1:8 Luxury

3:1-5 Oppression, injustice, treachery,
shamelessness.

1. This was Amon his dad.

2. Granddad Manasseh was worse.

2 Kings 21:16 "Filled Jer. c innocent blood"

3. He introduced cruelty (fire) and
heathensism.

B. Josiah overcame heredity!

1. A jewel

2 Kings 23:25 "None like him"

2. Name = God heals & he lived like it.

3. Mother-Jedidah (darling) (beloved
of God).

C. Youth today has to battle odds.

1. He's 8 years old.

2. Isaiah is dead, Micah is gone,

Jeremiah not due for 13 years
(Jer. 1:2), thus w/o religious
confederates & leaders.

D. Very valuable lesson.

1. Don't excuse yourself from serving because of adverse circumstances.
2. You are responsible for your own life regardless of how others act.
3. Youth can have a righteous impact.
4. He was determined to serve God & lead others also--none of this "they have their religion, I have mine."
5. He was trained in youth & stayed with it.
6. If our fathers are wrong don't stay there -- inquire & correct.
7. Can't start too young (his dad may have been 16 when he was born).
8. At 16 he was busy for the Lord.

2 Chron. 34:3 *While he was yet young* - seek led
9. Reigned 31 years--died at 40 and his work was done.

E. "Did what was right" (v-2)

1. Also said of Hezekiah -- great degree of approval.
2. Rt. or left - never deviated.

Deut. 5:32 "We shall observe to do" *as commanded*

Deut. 17:11 "Thou shalt not decline" *it hand left*
:20 *Heart not lifted above DR.*

Josh. 1:7 "Do all - turn not"

23:6 "Do all written"

2 Chron 34:3-7

(Rezd)

IV. Go Sum the Silver *2 Kings 12:4*

A. Unusual accounting.

1. Had money before started temple repair.
2. Had raised via volunteer contribution free will.
3. Did it themselves--not gifts of others.
4. This collection had been going on some time.

B. Read 2 Kings 22:5-7.

1. Quite trusting.
2. Renovation of sacred bldg.
3. Breach = dilapidation.
4. Full confidence in Supt.

V. The Serendipity - Found the Book

A. They unearthed a treasure.

v 8-11 (Read)

1. There had been no destruction of the word--just neglect.
2. 19th century critics sought to undo work of word--forgery, chance production obscure author who amused himself by composing a code of laws for Utopia.
3. Word providentially preserved in spite of man carelessly mislaying & neglecting it as of no value.
4. Do we today?
5. Found the book when he sought it not?

a) Workers came from Arlington, TX to door knock at Indy-Northeast & unearthed treasures.

b) Those who do their duty according to their knowledge shall have their knowledge increased.

c) Repeated "I have found"--thrice blessed.

6. God's protection & preservation of his word today shows his interest in it.

7. He never leaves himself w/o witness.

B. The Book

1. Had respect for it.

Deut. 31:24-26 *(Moses & word)*

~~17:18~~

31:10-13 *(Read)*

Neh. 8:2-5 *Read Read*

2. Read!

3. Sought water of life from the fountain head.

4. Regarded it as authoritative.

2 Cor. 4:2

5. For everyone - even King.

C. Read & Rent

1. Produced a profound effect.

2. Powerful to convince.

Ps. 19:7 Perfect, convert

Heb. 4:12 - quick & powerful

3. Wanted whole counsel of God.

4. We have the choice today to perform it or penknife it.

Jer. 36:20-24

Isa. 66:2 Tremble at word

(Noah being warned--moved c fear)

5. Rent cloths
 - a) Conscience
 - b) Apostacy
 - c) Faith -- all touched him.
6. Nature of word is to create urgency and thoroughness.
7. Rent - are we ever deeply ashamed & scared?
8. Note: once copy of Scriptures led to reformation.

D. Go Inquire of the Lord

1. False pens falsify law.

Jer. 8:8

2. We do it by altering text, by comments, by interpretations.

3. Word was sinfully lost.

Rom. 3:1-2 What adv. oracles?

4. Lost by neglect--lost sight of word covered by rubbish of today.

5. Are we folk of unopened Bibles?

6. Reverently examine it.

7. Didn't prejudice it by any statement of his own--leave the Book to speak for itself.

8. We need to inquire today!

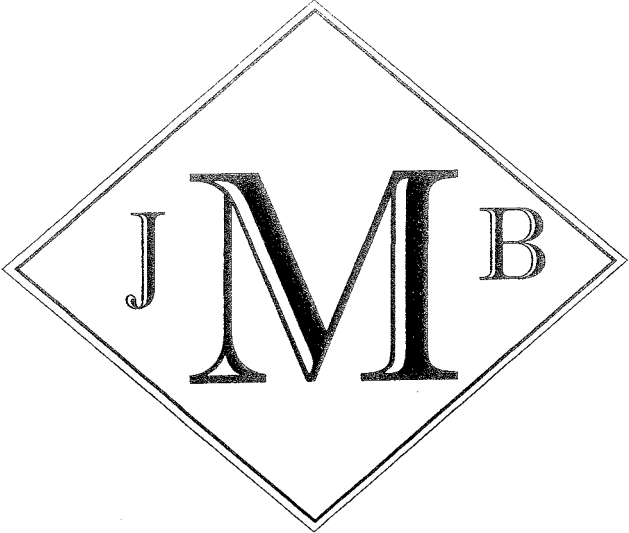
E. Wrath

1. Those who fear God's wrath are least likely to experience it.

2. If doing wrong, correct it.

3. When word is scarce people are corrupt.

F. What have you found today?



MODERN DAY JOSIAHS

2 Kings 23:1-3

I. In various churches, I hear pronounced themes - and among the Churches of Christ I hear "restore." What is this all about?

II. Every religion has a basic for its movement & a standard it will accept, i.e.

A. Baal - nature speaks - here is truth.

B. Buddha - there are sufferings to overcome - look to self for truth.

C. Greek - answer in philosophy.

D. Christianity - History - made known in truth.

John 20:30 These things are written

III. Proposition: If we stay with what is written, we stay c truth.

Jn. 17 Sanctify them thru thy w.

IV. It's possible for the Ship of Zion to get barnacles - scrap them off.

Matt. 7:21 "Not everyone that saith

Matt. 7:24 "Whosoever heareth these sayings of mine

Matt. 7:13 "Enter ye in at the strait gate

Matt. 7:20 "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them

Acts 20:28 "Take heed therefore unto yourselves and to

20:29 "For I know this that after my departing shall

2 Cor. 11:3 "So your minds should be corrupted from the

2 Thess. 2:3 - Falling away.

I Tim. 4:1 "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly that in the

A. Nothing is permanently won.

B. Josiah led people to stand to the covenant

II Kings 23:1-3.

1. No class distinction - all there.

2. Word touches all.

3. Read Pentateuch in 10 hrs.

4. Keep totality of law.

1 Kings 2:3 "And keep the charge of the Lord thy God

5. Obedience worthless unless from heart & soul.

Deut. 4:29 "But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lor

Joel 2:12-13 Rend heart, not garments

Isa. 29:13 "Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as thi

6. People stood to the covenant.

(a) Nations not saved in a lump.

(b) Saved individually.

(c) Performance meets promise.

(d) Great to be led by a noble leader.

C. We seek to restore.

1. King Tut's tomb opened 1927 - bottle of sealed seeds. Planted - grew.

2. Luke 8:11 "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God."

Sheet End 8-10-75

The Restoration movement is a religious movement that began about 1800, the purpose being to restore the church to its original state in doctrine, polity, and life. The standard for this restoration is the Word of God, or, more specifically, the New Testament.

From the beginning this movement has been rooted in the conviction that the restoration of the church according to this standard is possible and desirable; that it is the only way to **effect** genuine Christian unity; and that the unity of the church is essential to and will eventuate in the evangelization of the world. Thus the prayer of Jesus, as recorded in the seventeenth chapter of the Gospel of John, will be fulfilled.

"The Restoration Movement" - By Enos E. Dowling - FOREWORD

